The Arc of Indiana Strategic Plan
January 2023 – December 2025

Mission
The Arc of Indiana is committed to all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) realizing their goals of living, learning, working and fully participating in the community.

Vision
The Arc of Indiana is the trusted, leading resource for people with disabilities, their families, and all other stakeholders because of our bold, strategic programs and effective advocacy that promotes choice and equitable opportunities for all Hoosiers with disabilities.

Vision #1
Ensure The Arc of Indiana has long term effectiveness and continues to adapt to the changing needs of people with IDD and their families while at the same time having a board and staff representative of the diverse populations, both age and cultures, we represent.

• Engage families of all ages and the next generation of caregivers to make sure we understand the issues they worry about today and that they know The Arc of Indiana is a resource.
• Strategize to find ways to increase the awareness of our brand and engage families of all ages to get them active and engaged in our mission.

Vision #2
Impact the Direct Service Worker (DSW) workforce crisis by supporting recruitment of qualified staff and effective training methods, while supporting efforts to reduce the demand for and reliance upon the workforce.

• Advocate for a sufficient workforce in both quality and quantity.
• Support effective recruitment strategies and high-quality training efforts.
• Develop and implement a strategy to promote independence of people with IDD and educate stakeholders on the benefits of finding alternative support options.

Vision #3
Maximize the impact of The Arc of Indiana by ensuring a presence of The Arc in all of Indiana’s 92 counties. We will devote significant staff time and resources to:

• Educate communities on the value of a connection to The Arc.
• Identify local families impacted by our service system who are interested in advocacy.
• Assist families in the development of a formal association.
• Provide assistance in chapter formation and advocacy priorities.

Vision #4
Identify the most effective role for The Arc of Indiana to support people with IDD as managed care for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) grows in Indiana.

• Support and guide strategies to protect people with IDD, both now and when Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are folded into managed care, to ensure people with IDD receive the care coordination promised and that they deserve.
• Research ways to align ourselves with managed care entities, ensuring the proper focus is given to issues important to people with IDD, including considering becoming a managed care entity ourselves.
• With concern toward how community-based, not-for-profit providers will be impacted in a managed care market, we will identify the best option, assist in its creation, and maintain a focus on options that will improve outcomes for people with IDD.
• Seek out experts and stakeholders to enhance our knowledge and create a path forward, with an overall goal to ensure people with IDD are supported and not negatively impacted in a managed care environment.
Self-Advocates of Indiana has remained busy and active over the past several months.

In late summer, 22 self-advocates from across the state came together in Muncie for leadership training led by the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities and funded by the Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities. The advocates participated in leadership activities throughout the day and focus groups during the evening. Throughout the week, participants identified their own leadership style, strengths, and areas for growth. We were excited to see many new faces who are passionate and excited about self-advocacy in Indiana.

SAI’s Speaker’s Bureau continues to travel the state to provide trainings and learning opportunities. Covered topics include voter empowerment and education, how to live your best life by using the LifeCourse framework, the self-advocacy movement, career counseling and information referral and disability awareness. We are excited to welcome sixteen new speakers to our Speaker’s Bureau. With this growth we will be able to reach and educate people throughout the state with and without disabilities about self-advocacy.

We were pleased to welcome New Star’s, (The Arc in Lake and Porter counties,) new SAI Chapter in Merrillville, Indiana. If you are interested in forming a new SAI chapter or would like to become an independent member of SAI, please contact SAI administrator Becky Shields at bshields@arcind.org.

With the election coming up on November 8, SAI encourages you to visit indianavoters.in.gov to check your voter registration, learn where your voting location is, and learn who is running for office in your area. Questions? contact SAI at saind.org/contact-us.

December will be a big month for SAI as we will be holding our board of directors elections. We will have multiple board members with terms ending and will be voting to fill three at-large positions, two West Central Positions, two South Positions, two East Positions, two West Central Positions, and Vice-President.

If you are interested in running for any of these board positions, please visit us at saind.org for information.

A big thank you to the sponsors of our 2022 annual picnic that finally took place in person on September 23: Advocacy Links, Best Buddies Indiana, Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana, Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, IPMG, KCARC, New Star, Quillo Connect, The Columbus Organization, and Unity of Indiana. We appreciate your support!
Welcome New Chapters

We are pleased to welcome 5 new chapters to The Arc of Indiana, now making us the largest state chapter of The Arc in the country with 46 chapters covering 63 counties! Welcome LOGAN Community Resources, (South Bend), Marshall-Starke Development Center (Plymouth), New Star (Merrillville), The Arc of Southeast Indiana/New Horizons (Batesville) and Wabash Center (Lafayette).

We are thrilled to have these outstanding organizations join our federation who will be led by The Arc’s guiding principles. What does this mean for people with disabilities and their families? They now have 5 more organizations that will follow The Arc’s mission to provide quality services to help people gain independence and live their good life! Also, what does this mean for Indiana legislators? We now have more legislators that have a local chapter of The Arc in their district that they can rely on for resources and services to their constituents.

We pride ourselves on our reputation, our relationships and the passion in which we do our work. We have worked over the years to align ourselves with providers who offer services with a mission of quality and high focus on person centered models. We set a high threshold to become a chapter of The Arc of Indiana. These five organizations have continuously impressed us over the years and proved to us they were worthy of affiliation. Thanks to each one of them in believing in us and joining us! Learn more about these chapters on page 4.

1102 Task Force

We were also busy this summer working alongside the Task Force for Assessment of Services and Supports for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (1102 Task Force) and several task force subcommittees.

Sub-committee 1 pertained to the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Waiver, provided to people considered to be the most in need of services. Among other stringent guidelines, eligibility for the CIH Waiver includes having a caregiver over the age of 80 when there is no other caregiver available. The sub-committee was directed to look at all eligibility criteria for this waiver and provide recommendations to the task force. We hope to see movement to either decrease or eliminate the age requirement for caregivers.

Sub-committee 2 looked at conversations taking place around direct support professionals and the need to stabilize the workforce. In addition to increasing wages, improvements are needed in training and retention. The issues of standardized training and certification were at the core of discussions with recommendations going to the task force.

Sub-committee 3 focused on families seeking assurance that DSPs providing the most critical and personal of care are people who can be trusted, including having no past charges of abuse or neglect. The sub-committee discussed Indiana’s incident reporting process with a focus on potentially creating a DSP registry to aid providers in hiring decisions.

We will continue to meet with Lieutenant Governor Crouch, chair of the task force, and legislators on these issues to ensure they get attention in the upcoming legislative session.

Strategic Plan

You will see in this issue of the newsletter that we are launching a new 3 year Strategic Plan in January.

I am extremely excited about this plan as it lays out 4 key areas that we will focus on for the next few years. It is challenging and lofty and exciting all at the same time which makes it a great plan for us as we know so many people depend on The Arc to address important issues.

Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Arc is proud to support disability employment and raising awareness of the importance of hiring people with disabilities during Disability Employment Awareness Month. We are working on efforts to better educate employers about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities – with the message that it is a good business decision; not a good charity decision! We are also working with the state to see what more can be done to improve Indiana’s Medicaid Buy-In Program. This program allows states to charge premiums to Medicaid recipients with disabilities who are earning income as a condition to maintain Medicaid eligibility. We want to make sure that any barriers to employment are removed and people can advance to live their best, good life.

Thank You DSPs

Lastly, I cannot pass up the opportunity to acknowledge direct support professionals (DSPs) who were recognized across the country in September. Your work is important and we rely on you each and every day. I hope you feel valued and appreciated because you most certainly are!
We are The Arc — New Chapters

As Kim Dodson, CEO, announced in her message (page 2), with the addition of five new organizations that have affiliated as a chapter of The Arc, The Arc of Indiana is proud to now be the largest state chapter of The Arc in the United States. The addition of LOGAN Community Resources, Marshall-Starke Development Center (MSDC), New Star, The Arc Southeast Indiana/New Horizons and Wabash Center grows our statewide footprint of organizations that embrace The Arc’s values, guiding principles and mission and provides new opportunities for families seeking quality services and resources.

Chapter Missions

LOGAN Community Resources – The Arc in St. Joseph County
Support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they and their families may achieve their desired quality of life. logancenter.org

MSDC – The Arc in Marshall and Starke County
Empower individuals and help them reach their potential. msdcin.org

New Star – The Arc in Lake and Porter County
Provide choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families through a culture of innovation and caring to enrich their lives and maximize their independence. newstarservices.org

The Arc Southeast Indiana/New Horizons – The Arc in Dearborn, Franklin, and Ripley County
Empower individuals by creating meaningful opportunities in a changing environment. nhrinc.org

Wabash Center – The Arc in Tippecanoe County
Optimize the quality of life for people with disabilities or special needs. wabashcenter.com

The Arc of Indiana’s 46 chapters cover 63 counties. **Chapters that provide direct services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are noted in purple.** Chapters that provide advocacy, information and support in their county are noted in orange. While our chapters do not all use “The Arc” in their name, all of our chapters are proud to be affiliated with The Arc, the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Adams – Bi-County Services
Allen – Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
Bartholomew – The Arc of Bartholomew County
Benton – Hoosier Prairie Arc
Boone – The Arc of Greater Boone County
Brown – The Arc of Brown County
Carroll – The Arc of Carroll County
Cass – Peak Community Services
Clinton – The Arc of Clinton County
Daviess – Daviess-Starke Rehabilitative Services
Dearborn – The Arc of Southeast Indiana/New Horizons
Decatur – The Arc of Decatur County
DeKalb – Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
Delaware – Hillcroft Services
Elkhart – ADEC
Fayette – Achieva Resources
Fountain – The Arc of Fountain County
Franklin – Achieva & The Arc of Southeast Indiana/New Horizons
 Gibson – The Arc of Hancock County
Greene – Green County Arc
Hamilton – Noble/The Arc of Greater Indianapolis
Hancock – The Arc of Hancock County
Hendricks – Sycamore Services
Huntington – Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
Jackson – The Arc of Jackson County
Jasper – Hoosier Prairie Arc
Jennings – The Arc of Jennings County
Johnson – The Arc of Johnson County/Gateway Services
Knox – KCARC
Kosciusko – Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana/Cardinal Services
LaGrange – The Arc of LaGrange County
Lake – New Star & The Arc Northwest Indiana
LaPorte – The Arc Northwest Indiana
Lawrence – The Arc of Lawrence County
Madison – Hopewell Center
Marion – Noble/The Arc of Greater Indianapolis
Marshall – Marshall-Starke Developmental Services (MSDS)
Martin – Daviess-Starke Rehabilitative Services
Monroe – Stone Belt Arc
Newton – Hoosier Prairie Arc
Noble – The Arc Noble County Foundations
Owen – Sweet Owen Industries
Pike – The Arc Southeast Indiana
Porter – New Star & The Arc Northeast Indiana
Posey – The Arc of Posey County
Pulaski – Peak Community Services
Ripley – The Arc of Southeast Indiana/New Horizons
Rush – The Arc of Rush County
Shelby – The Arc of Shelby County
Spencer – The Arc of Spencer County
St. Joseph – LOGAN Community Resources
Starke – Marshall-Starke Developmental Services (MSDS)
Steuben – Easterseals Rise
Sullivan – Sullivan County Area Rehabilitation
Tippecanoe – Wabash Center & The Arc of Tippecanoe County
Union – Achieva Resources
Vanderburgh – The Arc of Evansville
Vigo – The Arc of the Wabash Valley
Wabash – The Arc of Wabash County
Wayne – Achieva Resources
Wells – Bi-County Services
White – Hoosier Prairie Arc
Whitley – Easterseals Passages

The Arc of Indiana • 30,000+ Members • 46 Chapters Strong • Covering 63 Counties
The Arc Advocacy Network

The Arc of Indiana has served as the state’s leading advocacy organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) for over 65 years. Our advocacy efforts continue to be the core of our mission. Key to that mission is The Arc Advocacy Network’s team of family advocates. We appreciate the key organizations and trusted partners who have joined in support of our advocacy efforts through our Circles of Support initiative.

It has been an incredible busy program year for the advocacy network. Following is an overview of its core programs.

Family Advocates

Our team of family advocates take over 350 calls per month from families, organizations, and community members; attend resource fairs and special events to share information; and assist families and community members through in person presentations and webinars. A family advocate may help you:

- learn how to use the LifeCourse framework to identify a vision of a good life and identify strengths, resources and supports to help you achieve that vision
- explore community living options
- identify community resources, which may help build relationships in the community
- learn about alternatives to guardianship or levels of guardianship when needed
- navigate government programs, including Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers, Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance

The Arc of Indiana Academy

The Arc of Indiana Academy allows individuals to access informational videos to gain knowledge at their own pace, on their own time schedule. We hope that providing information in this format will empower families and people with disabilities to have the knowledge they need to become stronger advocates for themselves or their loved ones. Visit The Arc of Indiana Academy at advocacy.thearcademy.org

CCIR

Our Career Counseling and Information Referral (CCIR) program serves individuals working in sub minimum wage jobs through sheltered work. The program provides a peer trainer and support person to discuss community employment, services offered through vocational rehabilitation, and possibilities to create their own business. CCIR staff can also help individuals utilize LifeCourse framework tools to think about and plan for transitioning from sheltered work.

Speaker’s Bureau

Self-Advocates of Indiana’s Speaker’s Bureau provides opportunities for people with IDD to lead in the community through speaking engagements, participation in committees or serving as panelist for group discussions. Visit saind.org/speakers-bureau to learn more.

My Friend & Peer

Earlier this year, the advocacy network ran a pilot project for a new My Friend and Peer program that will offer a peer specialist and mentor team to individuals with IDD residing in nursing homes. The peer specialist will help facilitate connections to community experiences, serve as a mentor by sharing personal stories, offer support and assistance to residents in creating a vision for their good life, and help identify resources and actions to achieve their vision.

Leadership Training

In late summer, Self-Advocates of Indiana and the advocacy network provided a Self-Advocate Leadership Development Training in partnership with the Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities. This weeklong experience offered training in developing leadership skills, along with training to build confidence and the ability to participate in meetings in a meaningful way. Participants viewed the training as a success, recommended continuing the training for others, and requested adding a level two training for graduates of the initial training.

As a new program year is about to begin, the advocacy network will be gearing up to expand the Speaker’s Bureau, further develop the My Friend & Peer program, expand The Arc of Indiana Academy, and develop a Self-Advocacy Leadership Network and Peer Mentoring Network.

To learn more, including joining our Circles of Support initiative, contact Alex Parker, director of development, aparker@arcind.org, or 317-977-2375.
EGTI Graduates Serve as Role Models for EGTI Students at IU Health

The Arc of Indiana Foundation’s Erskine Green Training Institute (EGTI) is proud of the seven-year relationship it has developed with IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital located in Muncie, Indiana. They not only provide space to serve as a training site for EGTI students, they are also committed to hiring EGTI graduates upon completion of the training program. The support shown from all hospital staff has made for a welcoming environment training session after training session.

There are currently nine EGTI graduates employed at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital, including four in Patient Transport, three in Nutrition Services, one in Kitchen Cook, and one in Environmental Services.

When new students begin one of these training programs, they are paired with these now IU Health employees during specific phases of training. It is wonderful to see EGTI graduates transitioning from the role of student to teacher, what is known in hospital terms as a preceptor.

The EGTI graduate models specific job skills and provides input on the EGTI student’s performance. These EGTI graduates serve as great role models and an example of what EGTI students are striving for long-term – successful employment.

Top left
EGTI graduate, Taylor, supporting EGTI student, Amanda, in Nutrition Services

Middle left
EGTI graduate, Kaden, supporting EGTI student, Matthew, in Kitchen Cook.

Bottom left
EGTI graduate, Patrick, supporting EGTI student, Carter, in Patient Transport

Top right
EGTI graduate, Jamie, supporting EGTI student, Matthew, in Environmental Services.

Bottom right
EGTI graduate, Abigail, supporting EGTI student, Carter, in Patient Transport
Employment Myths Busted

Fact – Social Security, Medicaid, Waivers, and MED Works have different income guidelines depending on a person’s specific situation. For example, a person receiving Medicaid Waiver services can make up to 350% of the federal poverty line and utilize MED Works to maintain Medicaid coverage. For a single adult in 2022, that means you can make $47,565 per year and keep your Medicaid and waiver benefits.

Fact – As a general rule, government benefits limit you to $2,000 in resources, but there are exceptions. Some examples of resources that do not count toward the $2,000 resource limit include:

- Up to $100,000 in an ABLE account
- An unlimited amount in a special needs trust, including The Arc Master Trust
- One house that you live in
- One car you use or is used for your benefit
- A burial/cemetery plot

Fact – Social Security offers a variety of work incentives depending on a person’s specific situation. While your SSI check may be reduced if you work, the money you make from your job will more than make up for that. A special category of Medicaid called MED Works allows people with disabilities to earn 350% of the federal poverty level and qualify for Medicaid. A vocational rehabilitation (VR) benefits specialist can help you learn how working may impact government benefits.

Fact – Social Security, Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers, and MED Works all have different income limits. How much you can earn depends on your specific situation including what government services you receive and what work incentives, job accommodations, and employer subsidies you may have available. You can talk with a VR benefits specialist to determine how to maximize your ability to work.

Visit arcind.org/supports-services/employment and advocacy.thearcacademy.org to find employment information and resources. Visit egti.org to learn about our training institute. Questions? Contact us at 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100 and ask to speak with a family advocate.

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- An unlimited amount in a special needs trust, including The Arc Master Trust
- One house that you live in
- One car you use or is used for your benefit
- A burial/cemetery plot

All people have the right to live, love, learn, work, and fully participate in their community.

The LifeCourse Framework can help guide thinking and planning for a person’s future at any age, including planning for employment and changes in employment. Visit lifecoursetools.com to find information and tools to help you or your loved one plan their best life.
The Arc Master Trust leads formation of Alliance of Pooled Trusts

The Arc of Indiana Master Trust is proud to be a founding member of the national Alliance of Pooled Trusts (APT). Melissa Justice, chief trust officer of The Arc Master Trust, was instrumental in working with other pooled special needs trust leaders in establishing APT and currently serves as their secretary.

APT was founded to bring pooled special needs trust (PSNT) providers together as professionals in the pooled trust industry. Their mission is to inform, educate and facilitate communication among PSNT providers by establishing and maintaining best practices for the benefit of the communities they serve. APT envisions a world where all pooled trusts maintain best practices to ensure that exceptional services are provided to people with disabilities.

The Arc Master Trust has served as Indiana’s leading special needs trust since 1988. It offers families and people of all disabilities an experienced, professional option for special needs trust administration at an affordable price, allowing resources to be saved and easily used for qualified disability and personal expenses.

Trust I, established in 1988, helps families provide for the financial future of their loved one without affecting eligibility for government benefits. Trust II, established in 1995, allows people with disabilities to save their own money in a trust while maintaining eligibility for government benefits.

The Arc Master Trust serves Hoosiers of all disabilities, including people with physical, mental, emotional, and intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

Visit thearctrust.org

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2022 Virtual Conference & Impact Awards Celebration

Please join us from the comfort of your home or office

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

10:30 a.m. Welcome

10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Opening Plenary
Kelly Mitchell
Director, Indiana Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon Keynote Speaker
Liz Weintraub
Senior Advocacy Specialist, Association of University Centers on Disability

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Impact Awards Celebration

1:30 – 2:15 p.m. Concurrent Workshops – ~

Starting Your Own Business
Kevin Burk
Self-Employment Specialist, Portals LLC

Ask the State DDRS Team
Kelly Mitchell, DDRS Director, Cathy Robinson, DDRS Associate Director; Jessica Harlan-York, DDRS Chief Operating Officer; Theresa Koleszar, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Director; Christina Commons, Bureau of Child Development Director

LifeCourse Part 1 - Crash Course in LifeCourse
Julie Reynolds
Senior Research Associate, University of Missouri Kansas City Institute for Human Development

Benefits Information Network (BIN) Counseling
Sarah Level
BIN Project Coordinator, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community

2:30 – 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Workshops – ~

I Have A Job!
Bonnie Bomer
Indiana Disability Rights Advocacy Specialist

Supported Decision Making
Zaida Maldonado-Prather
Indiana Disability Rights Staff Attorney

How do I use SDM and inform people?
Nick Parker
Staff Attorney, Indiana Supreme Court, Adult Guardianship Office

LifeCourse Part 2 - Using LifeCourse Tools
Christa Dismore, Lexi Westerfield, and Noah Upchurch

Education Impacted by COVID What can I do?
Dr. Dawn McGrath
Executive Director, INSOURCE

Registration

Please Visit arcind.org/event/conference-2022

Self-Advocates – $15
Family Members – $25
Professionals – $75

Please register by November 18, 2022

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Stone Belt Arc
United Health Care

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The Arc News in Indiana